

Spanish Mackerel.

This fish now stands next to mullet in point of numbers caught here. It has only been within the last 35 years that Spanish mackerel have been taken for the market. It is stated that the fishing practically began off the New Jersey coast in 1873. In 1880 reports from Pensacola stated that the catch was so small as to be of little commercial importance. The total catch in the Gulf of Mexico for that year was placed at 1,000 barrels or 200,000 pounds, out of a total of 2,000,000 pounds for the entire coast from Massachusetts to Texas. Of this catch Virginia is credited with 85% of the total.

As the refrigerator service grew, iced fish began to be shipped from the Gulf ports in greater quantities, and the demand for Spanish mackerel increased. It has been truly said "as a fresh fish, the Spanish mackerel has few equals." It is one of the most valuable species taken in the United States, and is a great favorite with epicures. Years ago the first of these fish that came to the New York market in the Spring sold at one dollar per pound.

As stated elsewhere our bay fishermen are now catching about 2,000 barrels of these fish each season, or twice as much as the entire catch of the Gulf of Mexico in 1880, and when it becomes possible to forward them to distant markets by rail iced, a much larger catch may be expected, and better prices obtained, for the Spanish mackerel loses in flavor and quality by being salted. Mackerel fishing usually begins in this bay in the forepart of March, and continues about sixty days. The largest hauls thus far reported have been from 50 to 70 barrels.

Red Fish or Channel Bass.

This fish is quite abundant in the waters of this bay, and furnishes sport for the angler all through the Summer months, and for fire fishing or gigging in the Winter. In seine fishing in the bayous in winter many of these fish are taken in the deep holes. Large schools of them are often seen in the Summer and Fall just outside the passes, on the shoals, but few are taken there by the fishermen. Next to trout they furnish the greatest number of fish taken in the bay by hook and line. At the end of the old slab dock just west of this place some of the largest and finest of these fish are taken almost daily in that manner. Mr Smith who fishes there has brought in this week redfish that would weigh hard on to 15 pounds each, and as high as ten at a time. Many are taken from off the long dock here. Redfish point opposite this place probably received its name nearly a century ago on account of this species of fish being so numerous at the entrance of East Bay.

Oyster Industry.

Next to the mullet and Spanish mackerel fisheries the oyster industry ranks in importance. From time immemorial oysters have been gathered from the reefs in this bay. The shell heaps now covered in places with aged live oaks speak of the antiquity of the placing of the beds beneath them, while at other places they are in such amount on the shores as to have changed their configuration. The greater amount of these delicious shell fish are taken from North Bay, with East Bay a close second. In quality they always have stood high, and long before fish began to be taken from here to outside points, oysters were gathered and taken as far west as New Orleans, and north in the interior as far as Atlanta. It is no unusual thing to see 25 boats after oysters in the winter season on North Bay, and each will tongue from 1 to 2 thousand a day. A few years since several Greeks were engaged in taking oysters in this bay, and carrying them in their sail boats to Pensacola. This is still done to some extent. The most of them however, that are not consumed here, are transported by team to points in North Florida, lower Alabama Georgia. The number of oysters taken from the bay each year is estimated at from 2,500 to 3,500 barrels. The price has been steadily increasing late years and they now bring from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per barrel. The beds are said to be in better shape this Fall than for some years past. Owing to the hurricane last year there was not the usual quantity taken.

Off Shore Fisheries.

About 1845 a few red snappers were taken to New Orleans and Mobile that were caught off Pensacola and in this section of the Gulf. That was about the beginning of the red snapper fishing, a business that now exceeds every other branch of the fish business in the gulf both in volume and value. These fish are found in the numerous gullies which cover the bottom of the gulf in the east, north east and south west portions thereof, the fishing being done in from 10 to 50 fathoms of water. At this depth the ground where they are abundant is a so called hard bottom, rocky or coralline. They are not found where the bottom is all sand or muddy.

For 50 years fishing for snappers has been carried on to a greater or less extent in this region on what was formerly called the "Saint Andrews Ground." Between Crooked island and Choctawhatchee bay these gullies come quite close to the shore, owing to this portion of the coast having a good depth of water near shore, and it is in these near shore gullies that our fishermen do the most of their snapper fishing.

About ten miles due west from the east point of Lands end, at West Pass, is a 13 fathom gully that affords good sport to the angler in quest of snappers, groupers, and porgies. Large catches have been made there, but it requires an experienced fisherman to locate the gully, and to remain upon it. It is but one of many between there and Choctawhatchee bay, but as before stated it takes an experienced man to locate these gullies.

We give below a list of the various kinds of fish that abound in these places, those marked with a star not being eaten here.

Red Snapper.
Black Grouper.
Red Grouper.
Leather Jacket or Turbot.*
Hind, or Deer Grouper.
Jew Fish or Warsaw.
Suckerfish.*
Mangrove Snapper.
Porgie.
Sea Bass.
Bastard Snapper.
Bottle Fish.*
Channel Bass or Red Fish.
Sea Robin.*
Rock Salmon.
Amber Fish.
Scamp.
Sharks, several species.*

But few of the fish caught in this off shore fishing are brought here. The commercial catch is taken to Mobile and Pensacola, Mobile now being esteemed the better market for them. It is stated that during a mild winter these fish remain in these gullies, but in an extremely cold winter they go in to deeper water farther from the shore.

To the south east of this port there are numerous snapper grounds not as yet fished out, and with the completion of the railroad, permitting the supplying of this fish to consumers in the inland cities, there will be an immense increase in this branch of the fish business, and a large fleet will make this place their headquarters, with heavy investments here to carry on the trade.

Flounder Fishing.

The bay abounds with this fish, but other than on pleasure bent by parties of young people out "floundering," but little attempt is made to catch them. Parties have caught as high as 140 large ones in a few hours in the fore part of the night. They are principally taken by gigging, or sticking a sharp pointed stick through them, as they lay in their nests upon the sandy bottom near shore. When it is possible to ship these fish fresh, much more will be done in taking them. The supply seems to be inexhaustable.

Fresh Water Fishing.

All the streams and lakes in this region abound in trout or large mouth bass and bream. They grow to a good size, and trout or bass have been taken weighing 8 and 10 pounds each. A catch of 40 to 50 of either of these varieties of fish is not uncommon, and this within a couple of hours fishing. The fresh water ponds south of the Lagoon are favorite fishing grounds for bream, and any of the creeks furnish fine sport trout fishing. A party out fishing bream have taken as much as 750 pound of them in three hours.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given, that, we the undersigned, do on the 15th day of October, 1907, intend to apply to the Governor of the State of Florida for Letters Patent for the purpose of incorporating under the following proposed charter.

PROPOSED CHARTER.

ARTICLE 1. The name of the corporation shall be the Bank of Panama City, and the place of its business and where its chief office is to be located, and where its operations are to be carried on, is the Town of Panama City, Washington County, and State of Florida.

ARTICLE 2. The nature of the business of the corporation shall be a "General Banking and Trust Business," discounting and negotiating promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other evidence of indebtedness, receiving deposits, buying and selling exchange, coin and bullion, and loaning money on personal and real security, and such other business usually conducted in a "General Banking Business," together with all business incidental to receiving and executing trusts, or such as is authorized by the laws of the Commonwealth of Florida.

ARTICLE 3. The capital stock of the corporation shall be Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), divided into one hundred and fifty shares of the par value of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per share. The capital stock to be paid in cash.

ARTICLE 4. The term for which the corporation shall exist shall be a period of ninety-nine years from and after date when it is authorized to begin business.

ARTICLE 5. The business of the corporation shall be managed and conducted by a President, Vice-President, Cashier and Board of Directors, and such other officers and employees as may be designated by the Stockholders or Board of Directors as provided by the By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall consist of such number as may be designated by the stockholders, not less than five, and shall be elected on the fourth Tuesday in January of each year. Until the officers elected at the first election shall qualify, the business of the corporation shall be conducted by G. M. West, as President, and W. H. Milton, as Vice-President, and R. L. McKenzie, as Cashier, and G. M. West, W. H. Milton, R. L. McKenzie, A. J. Gay and John Milton, III, as Directors, all of whom have resided in the State of Florida for more than one year next before the first day of October, 1907.

ARTICLE 6. The amount of the highest indebtedness or liability to which the corporation shall at any time subject itself, shall be the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars, except on account of demands of the nature following: (1) Money deposited with or collected by the Company; (2) Bills of exchange or drafts drawn against money on deposit to the credit of the Company, or due thereto; (3) Liabilities to the stockholders of the Company for dividends and reserved profits.

ARTICLE 7. The subscribers to this charter are as follows: W. H. Milton, who resides in Marianna, Florida, and who subscribes 30 shares of stock, and G. M. West, who resides in Panama City, Florida, and who subscribes 30 shares of stock, and R. L. McKenzie, who resides in Panama City, Florida, and who subscribes 30 shares of stock, and A. J. Gay, who resides in Gay, Florida, and who subscribes 30 shares of stock, and John Milton, III, who resides in Marianna, Florida, and who subscribes 30 shares of stock.

G. M. WEST,
A. J. GAY,
R. L. MCKENZIE,
JOHN MILTON, III,
W. H. MILTON.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
WASHINGTON COUNTY, }
This day personally appeared before me

W. H. Milton, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, G. M. West, R. L. McKenzie and A. J. Gay, who each for themselves acknowledged to me that he signed the foregoing proposed charter of the Bank of Panama City.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of August, 1907.

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
JACKSON COUNTY, }
This day personally appeared before me

W. H. Milton and John Milton, III, who each for themselves acknowledged to me that he signed the foregoing proposed charter of the Bank of Panama City.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of August, 1907.

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large.

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Attorney-at-Law

ChIPLEY, Fla.

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ARCHITECT

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Panama City, - - Florida.

E. M. GOODSON, A. HOGEBROOM.

Notary Public,

DEEDS, MORTGAGES, NOTES, BILLS OF SALE, &c., PROPERLY EXECUTED.

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W. W. GREEN, General Manager.

A. HOGEBROOM, Sec'y-Tre.

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Panama City, - - Florida.

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PRESIDENT.

A. HOGEBROOM,

VICE-PRESIDENT.

R. L. MCKENZIE,

SEC-TREAS.

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